SUMMARY OF ACTIVE REQUESTS FROM THE NAMMCO COUNCIL TO THE SC & THE RESPONSES FROM THE SC TO THESE REQUESTS

Last updated after SC29 - JD 13/02/2023

Codes beginning with: 1 – relevant to all Management Committees; 2 – relevant to seals and walrus; 3 – relevant to whales.

Green boxes contain new requests from 2022

Orange boxes contain new responses from SC/29 2023

Blue boxes indicate active ongoing requests that are more than 10 years old and requiring renewal to remain valid

Yellow boxes contain a proposed change of status to completed

Code	CN meeting	Request to SC	Response of the SC (in parenthesis SC meeting)	Status
1	ALL MCs // GENERAL & ALL MARINE MAMMALS			
1.1.0	MARINE MAMMAL – FISHERIES INTERACTIONS:			
1.1.5	NAMMCO/07 05-1997	To periodically review and update available knowledge related to the understanding of interactions between marine mammals and commercially exploited marine resources.	SC/21 recommends this request remains as standing request and also takes the place of R-1.1.3. (SC/21, 2014) SC/25 mentioned that the work on-going under BYCWG provides some answers to this request (SC/25, 2018) SC/25 received updated information on the consumption of resources by marine mammals by grey and harbour seals in Norway and heard about plans for work on harp seals together with Russia. Updates from a Norwegian workshop on bycatch were also SC/27 received updated information on harp and ringed seal diets and new analyses indicating that harbour seals are not in direct competition with cod fisheries in Norway. It was also informed about ongoing work on an article to estimate consumption in the North Atlantic. (SC/27, 2021) SC/28 received updated by-catch estimates for harbour porpoise, harbour and grey seals for the Norwegian commercial coastal gillnet fisheries and recommended that the BYCWG continue and progress in its assessments of the by-catch risks in the different fisheries, with the aim of reviewing advances at the next SC meeting. (SC/28, 2022) SC/29 informed about several studies related to the understanding of interactions between marine mammals and commercially exploited marine resources. (SC/29, 2023)	Standing
1.1.8	NAMMCO/17 09-2008 RENEWED NAMMCO/27 (2019)	In addressing the standing requests on ecosystem modelling and marine mammal fisheries interaction, to extend the focus to include all areas under NAMMCO jurisdiction. In the light of the distributional shifts seen under T-NASS 2007 and later surveys, the SC should investigate dynamic changes in spatial distribution due to ecosystem changes and functional responses. See also 1.1.6 and 1.4.6.	The SC convened in 2009 the WG on Marine Mammal Fisheries Interaction (MMFI) because it judged at its last meeting that the developments in modelling and other progress which had occurred in Norway, Canada and Japan warranted their review. SC has reviewed progress made in all areas and for all species. (SC/16, 2009) This request should be kept as ongoing until the results expected from Iceland are presented in the SC. (SC/21, 2014) SC/25 noted that the joint analyses of the data gathered through the whole NASS series are in progress (SC/25, 2018) SC/26 did not address this request during their meeting, partly due to the results of the NASS series only recently being completed (S SC/27 was an online meeting with limited time available and the SC did not specifically discuss this request, although relevant new research publications were presented. (SC/27, 2021) SC/28 considered this a two-fold request that should be separated as such. 1) "In addressing the standing requests on ecosystem modelling and marine mammal fisheries interaction, to extend the focus to include all areas under NAMMCO jurisdiction." 2) "In the light of the distributional shifts seen under T-NASS 2007, the SC should investigate dynamic changes in spatial distribution due to ecosystem changes and functional response". SC/28 did not receive specific updates regarding distributional shifts but was informed about ongoing efforts in Iceland to investigate possible distributional shifts of capelin in association with humpback and fin whales. (SC/28, 2022)	Replaced Split in two, see below
1.1.9	Split from 1.1.8 at NAMMCO/29 (2022)	In addressing the standing requests on ecosystem modelling and marine mammal fisheries interaction, to extend the focus to include all areas under NAMMCO jurisdiction.	SC/29 recommended that responding to both requests 1.1.9 and 1.2.1 should not be considered a priority and request the guidance of the MCJ on this because the best-known ecosystem models are focused on fish and using these models for marine mammals is considered extremely difficult at the moment. (SC/29, 2023)	Ongoing
1.1.10	Split from 1.1.8 at NAMMCO/29 (2022)	In the light of the distributional shifts seen under T-NASS 2007 and later surveys, the SC should investigate dynamic changes in spatial distribution due to ecosystem changes and functional responses. See also 1.1.6 and 1.4.6.	SC/29 received updated information on a regime shift in Southeast Greenland and indicated that there are several studies documenting these distributional shifts and hunters had also documented similar species shifts and changes. The SC recommended that, after NASS2024, the abundance estimate working group examine the best way of looking at distributional shifts using all NASS data, focusing on trends in species distribution and abundance. (SC/29, 2023)	Ongoing
1.2.0	MULTISPECIES APPROACHES TO MANAGEMENT:			
1.2.1	NAMMCO/01 09-1992 RENEWED NAMMCO/27 (2019)	To consider whether multispecies models for management purposes can be established for the North Atlantic ecosystems and whether such models could include the marine mammals compartment. If such models and the required data are not available then identify the knowledge lacking for such an enterprise to be beneficial to proper scientific management and suggest scientific projects which would be required for obtaining this knowledge. See related request (R 1.4.7)	Vikingsson updated the SC on the Ecosystem Modelling project for which funding was being sought. The initial NAMMCO research program has developed into a much broader project with modelling at the core, including more general fisheries management considerations and a socioeconomic component. The project has now been funded for 6 million Euros for the next 4 years. The funded project has been adapted for the call for research proposals from the EU, and now includes 29 institutes from 16 countries. It still contains parts of the original marine mammal components. Iceland is still a core area, and the project has been expanded to include many other areas, however multispecies modelling in the Barents Sea has been removed. The SC noted that the original NAMMCO project (coordinated by Lars Walløe) has been changed but the Icelandic component is still included. (SC/20, 2013) A large-scale ecosystem modelling project (MAREFRAME) is underway, which includes marine mammals in Icelandic and adjacent waters. (SC/21, 2014) See R-1.4.7 (SC/22, 2015) SC/25 noted that the outputs of the recently finished MareFrame project, and similar projects, represent an important milestone towards answering this request. However the SC also agreed that further work is needed to refine and update the currently available models if they are to provide advice on marine mammal interactions with fisheries, both direct and indirect. (SC/25, 2018) SC/26 did not receive any new updates on this topic but noted the planned ICES WG on Integrated Ecosystem Assessment of the Greenland Sea and encouraged NAMMCO participation in this work (SC/26, 2019). SC27 agreed that updates newly published work and work happening on multisipecies modeling within ICES working groups should SC/28: A review of ecosystem models that include the marine mammal component was presented at SC28. The SC agreed that a workshop to assess from a marine mammal perspective the model portfolio available for the North Atlantic was desirable but postponed its planning to the next meeting of the SC. (SC/28, 2022) SC/29 recommended that responding to both requests 1.1.9 and 1.2.1 should not be considered a priority and request the guidance of the MCJ on this because the best-known ecosystem models are focused on fish and using these models for marine mammals is considered extremely difficult at the moment. (SC/29, 2023)	Ongoing
1.2.2	NAMMCO/05 02-1995	In relation to the importance of the further development of multispecies approaches to the management of marine resources, to monitor stock levels and trends in stocks of all marine mammals in the North Atlantic.	SC/05: It was clarified that the purpose of this request was to ensure that data on marine mammals was available for input into multi-species models for management. The SC agreed that updated information on abundance and indications of trends in abundance of stocks of marine mammals in the North Atlantic should be clearly described in a new document for the internal reference of the Council, to replace the List of Priority Species. This document would be entitled Status of Marine Mammals in the North Atlantic and should include those cetacean and pinniped species already contained in the List of Priority Species, as well as SC/25 noted that the analyses of the data gathered through the whole NASS series is close to completion, included analysis of trends. (SC/25, 2018) SC/26 received no updates on multi-species appraches specifically. Updates on stock levels and trends of some marine mammals were provided through AEWG 2019 and other working groups and this was seen as part of the standard work carried out by the SC	Standing
1.5.0	ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:			
1.5.3	NAMMCO/24 04-2016	To monitor the development of the Mary River Project and assess qualitatively or if possible quantitatively the likely impact and consequences on marine mammals in the area.	SC/24 recommended that the issues regarding belugas and narwhals be discussed further at the JCNB-NAMMCO SC/25 received an update regarding the plan to build a railway to increase shipments from the mine to Milne Inlet and to increase shipping from Milne Inlet to Europe. The SC reiterated its recommendation that all information on the Mary River Project be presented to the next meeting of the NAMMCO-JCNB JWG in 2020 (SC/25, 2018). SC/26 received an update on the Mary River project and remained concrned about its development and the importance of monitoring its impacts on marine mammals. The SC recommended that plans for monitoring narwhal be developed withn the context of the JWG with JCNB (SC/26 2019) SC/27 noted that the JWG had received an update on the Mary River project and although it endorsed a recommendation that a workshop on disturbance from the mine be held, it suggested that the JWG provide more specific terms of reference for this workshop at its next meeting SC/28: A workshop will be held in 2022 by the JWG to assess the anthropogenic impacts on marine mammals (species in focus: narwhal, beluga, walrus) of activities associated to both the Mary River project in Canada as well as mining activities in Wolstenholme Fjord (SC/28 2022). SC/29 commended the review carried out at the NAMMCO-JCNB Joint scientific Working Group (JWG) Disturbance Workshop and endorsed the recommendations of the WS. The SC recommended reviewing updates on the Mary River and Dundas mining project in relevant WGs. The SC also recommended circulating the report of the Workshop to other organisations working in the Arctic and dealing with disturbance effects on wildlife. The SC highlighted that narwhals were especially sensitive and vulnerable to shipping and other disturbances associated to these mining projects. (SC/29, 2023)	Ongoing
1.5.4	NAMMCO/25 03-2017	Committed to furthering its ecosystem approach to the management of marine mammals, and recognising the range of anthropogenic pressures facing North Atlantic marine mammals associated with the climate and environmental changes taking place, the Council requests the SC to advise on the best process to investigate the effects of non-hunting related anthropogenic stressors on marine mammal populations, including the cumulative impacts of global warming, by-catch, pollution and disturbance.	SC/24 recommended that upcoming/future WGs consider request R-1.5.4, for example by adding non-hunting impacts to their agendas. (SC/24, 2017) SC/25 recommended that as part of the ongoing efforts to address this request, the Secretariat conduct a review of pollutants in all marine mammals relevant for NAMMCO (SC/25, 2018). SC/26 previously answered this request by implementing a requirement that all WGs include other anthropogenic impacts as an agenda item. How best to address these impacts and further improve the work on this topic was also addressed in the response to the performance review recommendations (SC/26, 2019) SC/28 answered this request by reiterating from SC/24 that all WGs systematically include *Other [than removals] anthropogenic impacts* as an agenda item in their consideration. (SC/28, 2022) SC/29 noted that studying the cumulative impacts of global warming, by-catch, pollution and disturbance, requires long term monitoring studies addressing all effects. Providing a more thorough and detailed response to R-1.5.4 is impaired by the present lack of such studies for many species and areas. Because the impact of non-hunting anthropogenic stressors will remain a standard agenda item in all WG meetings, the issue will be regularly revisited by the SC. Consequently, the SC recommended that the MCs consider this request as answered.	Completed
1.6.0	MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES:			
1.6.5	NAMMCO/2	Struck and loss rates should be subtracted from future advice on sustainable removals in Greenland, with the advice being given as total allowable landings	SC/25 noted that this had been done within the walrus working group (SC/25, 2018). SC/26 considers this to now be established practice within NAMMCO and suggests that updates are not required annually on standing requests (SC/26, 2019)	Standing
1.6.7	NAMMCO/27 03-2021	The SC is requested to explain how and at what level the precautionary approach is, or can be, integrated into advice provided by the SC for use in conservation and management, with a particular focus on depleted stocks.	SC/27 had tasked the JWG to initiate the development of a principle-based approach for the sustainable management of small and/or depleted stocks. The JWG 2021 drafted 7 such principles incorporating a precautionary approach that were presented to the SC. The SC welcomed the effort by the JWG and agreed that these principles provide good reference points for further SC/29 discussed the reference points for a principle-based precautionary approach provided at SC28 (SC/28, 2022) and agreed on 8 principles. The SC recommended that these principles be adopted by the MCs. (SC/29, 2023)	Ongoing
1.7.0	MONITORING MARINE MAMMAL STOCK LEVELS AND TRENDS IN STOCKS (INCLUDING THE NORTH ATLANTIC SIGHTINGS SURVEYS, NASS:			
1.7.11	NAMMCO/16 02-2007 RENEWED NAMMCO/27 (2019)	To develop estimates of abundance and trends as soon as possible once the survey has been completed, with the primary target species (fin, minke and pilot whales) as a first priority, and secondary target species as a second priority.	SC/17: This request is being addressed with the near completion of most of the analyses of T-NASS minke whale survey data. Abundance estimates for fin whales have been finalized (Icelandic-Faroese shipboard and Greenland aerial T-NASS surveys) or are on their way (Norway shipboard T-NASS survey). Some progress has been made in the analyses of pilot whale data, although further analyses are warranted, which will be presented to the next AE WG in October 2009. (SC/16, 2009). Estimates of abundance for some key species are available and referred to in the SC report. (SC/17) SC/25 noted that although this work is still in progress, Table 7 of the SC/25 report presents an overview of the abundance estimates that were reviewed in 2018 and Appendix 6 of the report provides an overview of the status of the abundance estimates from the 2015-2016 NASS/NILS surveys. Not presented to the 2018 AEWG were abundance estimates for sei whale, bottlenose whale and killer whales for some areas. Minor work was still required for the minke whale in Iceland/Faroes and CM1a+CM3, further work required for Minke whale in Iceland coastal, Fin whale in CM1a+CM3, Humpback whale in CM1a+CM3, Sperm whale in CM1a+CM3, White-beaked dolphin in Iceland coastal and harbour porpoise in Iceland coastal (SC/25, 2018) SC/26 noted that with the exception of killer whales in Iceland/Faroes, this work has now been completed for the 2015 NASS survey SC/27 endorsed new estimates for killer whales and northern bottlenose whales and noted that estimates for all possible species from the 2015 NASS had now been generated and published. SC/27 also recommended that a single estimate for the whole NAMMCO management area be generated for bottlenose whales through restratification and recalculation. NO/IMR said that it would do the analysis. SC/28: NO is progressing with the task (bottlenose whale), and sighting data from last year's survey will be added to the dataset, when a high number of bottlenose whales was sighted in the Jan Mayen area. (SC/28, 2022) SC/29 NO informed that the abundance estimate for bottlenose whales could be expected in April 2023. (SC/29, 2023)	Ongoing. Nearly completed
1.8.0	OTHER			

1.8.3	NAMMCO/29 (2022)	Acknowledging the importance of the website as NAMMCO's main dissemination tool, and the value of the species pages, the Council requests the SC to continue its regular review of these pages following the procedure proposed by the SC26 (2019).	SC/29 was asked to review the information on the NAMMCO website for four species: grey seal, bowhead whale, white-sided and white-beaked dolphins. This review was done by the species experts within the weeks following the meeting of the SC.	
2	SEALS AND WALRUS			
2.1.0	HARP AND HOODED SEALS			
2.1.4	NAMMCO/12 03-2003	It was noted that new information recently had become available on the abundance of harp seals in the Greenland Sea and the Northwest Atlantic. In addition new information is available on movements and stock delineation of harp seals in the Greenland, Barents and White seas. Therefore, request 2.1.3 was reiterated - to regularly update the stock status of North Atlantic harp and hooded seals as new information becomes available. The Management Committee noted the likely impact of increasing abundance of these species on fish stocks. For harp seals in the Northwest Atlantic, the immediate management objective is to maintain the stocks at their present levels of abundance.	An update of the stock status of North Atlantic hooded seals had been made by the WGHARP at its 2008 meeting, which in turn had been endorsed by the Committee. The SC notes that this is a standing request that will be taken up again when new data become available. Considering that the population in the Greenland Sea in 2007 is still well below Nlim, and the results of the 2007 survey were similar to those in 2005, the SC reiterates its recommendation from SC 14 that the catches in the Greenland Sea be restricted to necessary scientific catches and to satisfy local needs at roughly current levels. (SC/16, 2009) Updates on harp & hooded seals from WGHARP were presented at (SC/20, 2013) Updates on harp & hooded seals from WGHARP were presented at (SC/24, 2017). Most important information necessary to answer these requests will be the new survey in 2018. (SC/24, 2017) SC/25 noted that this will be addressed through the work of WGHARP in 2019 (SC/25, 2018). Work to answer this request is carried out by WGHARP and was therefore updated through their WG meeting in 2019 (SC/26, 2019 SC/27 noted that work to answer this request will be done through WGHARP (next meeting in 2023), and that prior to this, advances in model development and review of harvest control rules will be made through the benchmark meetings being organised by ICES	Standing
2.1.9	NAMMCO/16 02-2007 REPHRASED NAMMCO/29 (2022)	To investigate possible reasons for the apparent decline of Greenland Sea stock of hooded seals and assess the status of the stock.	This request was forwarded to the ICES-NAFO WG, which dealt with this request at its meeting in Tromsø in 2008. (SC/15, 2008). On the basis of the conclusion of this group, the SC concludes that the reasons for the decline of the stock are still not understood. A reduction in extent and concentration of drift ice has occurred in the Greenland Sea between Greenland and the Jan Mayen Island. These changes must have resulted in substantial changes in breeding habitat for the Greenland Sea populations of harp and hooded seals. …The SC appreciates the efforts made by Norwegian and cooperating scientists to address the questions related to the apparent decline of hooded seals in the Greenland Sea. It strongly recommends that these activities are given high priority in the coming years. (SC/16, 2009)	
	NAMMCO/21 9-2012	NAMMCO should review its cooperation with ICES in light of the SC work on harp and hooded seals. It further underlined the importance in getting answers to request R 2.1.9.	The SC advises the Council that a more formal cooperation between ICES and NAMMCO on harp and hooded seals such as through the ICES WGHARP would be desirable, and that a formal request to ICES for such cooperation could be sent (SC/20, 2013). The SC was informed that ICES and the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) have accepted NAMMCO's request to join the WGHARP (SC/22, 2015) SC/24 (2017): data analysis is ongoing and several publications will come out soon on these data. The most important information necessary to answer [this] request will be the new survey in 2018. (SC/24, 2017) SC/25 noted that this work on this is ongoing and will likely be at least partly answered by the WGHARP at its 2019 meeting (SC/25, 2018). With the information available to date, neither WGHARP nor the SC is able to provide reasons for the decline of the Greenland Sea s SC/28 recommended that the reference to the planned survey in 2007 be removed from this ongoing request as several surveys had SC/29 was informed that past attempts by Norway to get funding to study the effects of contaminants on the reproductive biology of the seals were not successful, but biological samples from 2010 were available at IMR and ready for analysis. The next meeting of the ICES/NAMMCO/NAFO WGHARP is planned for September 2023. Prior to this, improvements and advances of assessment models will be made through the planned joint ICES benchmark meeting in May 2023. (SC/29, 2023)	Ongoing
2.1.10 rev	NAMMCO/17 09-2008	To provide advice on Total Allowable Catches for the management of harp seals and the establishment of a quota system for the common stocks between Norway and the Russian Federation, leaving full freedom to the Committee to decide on the best methods to determine this parameter based on an ecosystem approach.	The Committee notes that in October 2008, ICES provided advice that was used to set the 2009 quotas for northeast Atlantic harp seals by the Joint Norwegian Russian Fisheries Commission. The SC endorses at its present meeting the advice provided. Dividing the total removals for each population into national allocations is traditionally carried out through bilateral negotiations in the Joint Norwegian Russian Fisheries Commission. Therefore the SC feels it needs clarification from the Council on the request of the establishment of a quota system. The SC also wishes a clarification from Council about the definition of "ecosystem approach" in the establishment of a quota system as stated in the request R-2.1.10. (SC/16, 2009)	
	NAMMCO/18 09-2009	For clarification, the Management Committee for Seals and Walruses wished to specify to the SC that the "ecosystem approach" to management for one species involves the use of information about predation from or on other species when quotas are set, but multi-species modelling is not yet at a stage where this can be effected. The TAC are estimated	Updates on harp & hooded seals from WGHARP were presented at (SC/24, 2017). SC/25 noted that the second part of this request is dealt with by the Joint Norwegian – Russian Fisheries Commission and proposed that request 2.1.10 be rephrased as provide advice on Total Allowable Catches for the management of harp seals (SC/25, 2018).	Standing
	NAMMCO/27 (2019)	*Request Rephrased:* To provide advice on the total allowable catches for the management of harp seals	SC/26 noted that the work to answer this request is carried out by WGHARP and was therefore updated through their WG meeting in 2019. SC/27 noted that work to answer this request will be done through WGHARP (next meeting in 2023), and that prior to this,	
2.3.0	RINGED SEALS:			
2.3.1	NAMMCO/05 02-1995 (+ climate change) **REPHRASED NAMMCO/29 (2022)**	To advise on stock identity of ringed seals for management purposes and to assess abundance in each stock area, long-term effects on stocks by present removals in each stock area, effects of recent environmental changes (i.e. disturbance, pollution and climate change) and changes in the food supply, and interactions with other marine living resources.	The SC established a WG on Ringed Seals. The SC considered the report of the WG and provided advice to Council. They also provided recommendations for future research. (SC/5, 1997).	
	NAMMCO/19 09/2010	Request 2.3.1 is endorsed again	The SC noted that there is currently very little information on stock structure and stock size to consider in relation to both requests (2.3.1 and 2.3.2). Some movement information exists, but these do not give enough information to have understanding of population structure. The SC suggested that a WG be considered in the next few years (2015 or later). The WG could look into movements (from the available satellite tagging data) versus where catches are occurring in relation to stock structure. It may also be important to assess this species in light of climate change and changing ice conditions. The SC notes that it is very difficult to obtain the desired information on this species. The Arctic Council recently held a meeting on ringed seals, and it was suggested that the SC considers, at its next meeting, the report from that meeting, and data availability, and considers then the need for a WG (SC/20, 2013).	
	NAMMCO/22 02-2014	The report from the SC is noted and the idea of a WG in 2015 or later when enough information is available is endorsed.	…still not enough information…The SC recommended research (genetics, surveys) that will help towards responding to R-2.3.1 (SC/23, 2016) The SC does not have the information to answer this request. If more information becomes available to answer R-2.3.1, then this would also help in answering R-2.3.2. The SC considers new abundance estimates and information on stock structure that have been previously recommended would be the most helpful in answering these requests. (SC/24, 2017) SC/25 noted that this will be addressed through the planned Ringed Seal Working Group (SC/25, 2018). There is a plan to advance on this request through a dedicated ringed seal WG, however SC/26 proposed that this be delayed until sufficient information is available (SC/26, 2019) SC/27 noted the request from Council that a WG on this species not be delayed beyond 2022. As a first step it agreed that an overview of information required and available to perform an assessment should be collated, together with a review of available published literarture (and especially that published since that last review in 2010). An intern at the Secretariat will begin the work on SC/28 recommended this request to be rephrased to not only refer to disturbance and pollution but also climate change as this likely SC/29 were presented results from seal telemetry studies in the Arctic, with proposed management units for artic ringed seals based on tracking data. Tracking results indicated that different groupings of seals could be defined, based on where the seals moved to. Six possible putative management areas could be defined for arctic ringed seals: Svalbard, East and southwest Greenland, Kangia (in a West Greenland fjord), Baffin Bay / Davis Strait / Hudson Strait / Foxe Basin / Lancaster Sound /Smith Sound and Kane Basin, Hudson Bay, and East of the Northwest passage to East Russia. (SC/29, 2023)	Ongoing
2.3.3	NAMMCO 28a 03-2020	To convene a working group in 2022 with the aim of conducting a thorough review of the existing data and to go ahead with the assessment of stocks for which it was possible. If the data required for a full assessment of (some of) the stocks were not available, the WGs and the SC should identify, and prioritise, which specific data essential to their assessments are still needed.	SC/27 noted the request from Council that a WG on this species not be delayed beyond 2022. As a first step it agreed that an overview of information required and available to perform an assessment should be collated, together with a review of available published literature (and especially that published since that last review in 2010). An intern at the Secretariat will begin the work on this review in 2021. SC/28: the SC postponed the ringed seal Working Group Meeting to 2023, but as SC/28 found it important to progress with a status review, a 3h online meeting will take place in November 2022 to get an overview of data and analysis for both ringed and bearded seals. (SC/28, 2022) SC/29 was presented with plans for a ringed seal working group (RSWG) consisting in scheduling several short (1-2h) meetings over the year focussing on specific aspects required for the review/assessment. The first one would focus on discussing management areas for the species and would involve pan Arctic experts. The geographical scope of the following would be reduced to the stocks under the remit of NAMMCO and shared stocks, where East Canadian experts would be involved. The first meeting could be scheduled no later than October 2023, drawing on the experience of the bearded seal workshop in March 2023. The SC agreed with the plan. The SC recommended that the catch data be available to the upcoming RSWG meetings and that the RSWG should define the area for which an assessment could be conducted, and where the abundance data would be the most useful to progress in assessing the conservation status of a stock. (SC/29, 2023)	Ongoing
2.4.0	GREY SEALS:			
2.4.2	NAMMCO/11 02-2002 RENEWED NAMMCO/27 (2019)	To provide a new assessment of grey seal stocks throughout the North Atlantic. -- It is noted that there has been a decline in the numbers of grey seals around Iceland, possibly due to harvesting at rates that are not sustainable. The SC had previously provided advice in response to a request to review and assess abundance and stock levels of grey seals in the North Atlantic, with an emphasis on their role in the marine ecosystem in general, and their significance as a source of nematodal infestations in fish in particular (NAMMCO 1995). Given the apparent stock decline in Iceland, an apparent increase in Southwest Norway and in the United Kingdom, and the fact that this species interact with fisheries in three NAMMCO member countries, it is recommended that the SC provide a new assessment of grey seal stocks throughout the North Atlantic.	The WG on Grey Seals met in April 2003 and completed an initial assessment of stocks around Norway, Iceland, Great Britain and the Baltic. (SC/11, 2003) The SC recommends: •Establishment and/or continuation of standardised and regular monitoring programmes for seal abundance in all countries, including the development of appropriate survey methods. •Securing catch records and associated data from hunted seals. •Quantification and standardisation of methods to estimate struck and lost and by-catch. •Population assessment of both species in Russia. •Survey of harbour seals along the coast of Iceland. •Studies to identify the population structure of Norwegian harbour seals. •Exploration of the south-eastern Greenland coast for the presence of harbour and grey seals. •Estimation of the stock identity, size, distribution and structure of the Faroese population of grey seals. •Completion of the ongoing genetic analyses of grey seal population structures for the north Atlantic including new samples from the Faroe Islands.The SC furthermore recommends The SC recommended that the Grey and Harbour Seals WG meet in 2014, reflecting the recommendations to finalise the request 2.4.2. (SC/19, 2012 and reiterated at SC/20, 2013) A Coastal Seals WG meeting has been tentatively scheduled for February 2016 to address R-2.4.2 and R-2.5.2. By February 2016, the CSWG will likely have bycatch estimates and a new complete grey seal estimate in Norway for consideration at the meeting (SC/21, 2014). The SC recommended that all of the available grey seal data from the Faroes is presented to the CSWG for review. The SC recommends that the CSWG develops specific plans for monitoring grey seals in the Faroes, e.g., obtaining a relative series of abundance (if a full abundance estimate is not possible at this time). The 2015 abundance estimates from Norway will be available at CSWG. (SC/22-2015) The CSWG met in March 2016, and the SC/24 endorsed the conclusions and recommendations (SC/23-2016) SC/25 noted that this work remains ongoing in the lead up to the CSWG in 2020 (SC/25, 2018). SC/26 noted that this will be done through the coastal seals working group planned for April 2020 (SC/26, 2019). SC/27 noted that a short meeting to review the status of stocks was held in 2021, which addressed stocks in Norway and the Faroe Islands but a full assessment would be carried out by the CSWG at their next meeting, planned for 2022. SC/28 noted that the request would be answered by the next CSWG, which was postponed from 2022 to 2023 to allow more data to become available. (SC/28, 2022)	Ongoing

			SC/29 noted that a Coastal Seals Working Group (CSWG) meeting is planned for 8-11 May 2023 to produce an assessment for both grey and harbour seals in the NAMMCO countries. The SC agreed on the following Terms of Reference for the CSWG meeting: 1) To provide a new assessment for grey and harbour seals throughout the North Atlantic. 2) To provide guidelines for responsible removals of small coastal seal stocks. (SC/29, 2023)	
2.5.0	**HARBOUR SEAL**			
2.5.2	NAMMCO/16 02-2007	To conduct a formal assessment of the status of harbour seals around Iceland and Norway as soon as feasible.	At its meeting 2007 (SC/15, 2008), the SC recommended that an assessment be conducted in 2010 after the third Norwegian survey, leaving Iceland time for developing a management plan. However, the Norwegian survey will take place in mid-summer 2010, and the results of the survey will probably not be available before early 2011, therefore the SC recommends that an	**Ongoing**
			The SC reiterated the recommendation that a formal assessment of harbour seals in all areas be carried out by a WG meeting on coastal seals in 2011. SC recommended that a WG on coastal seals be held to review the Norwegian management plan for grey and harbour seals, to perform assessments for grey and harbour seals in all areas, and to develop a common management model for both species in all areas. The WG should also consider whether the age data from the catch of grey and harbour seals in Iceland would improve the assessment. If a meeting is planned for early 2011, another meeting is likely required to fulfill the task. (SC/17, 2010)	
	NAMMCO/19 09-2010	The geographical focus of this request is changed to entail ALL areas.	The SC recommends: •Establishment and/or continuation of standardised and regular monitoring programmes for seal abundance in all countries, including the development of appropriate survey methods. •Securing catch records and associated data from hunted seals. •Quantification and standardisation of methods to estimate struck and lost and by-catch. •Population assessment of both species in Russia. •Survey of harbour seals along the coast of Iceland. •Studies to identify the population structure of Norwegian harbour seals. •Exploration of the south-eastern Greenland coast for the presence of harbour and grey seals. •Estimation of the stock identity, size, distribution and structure of the Faroese population of grey seals. •Compilation of the ongoing genetic analyses of grey seal population structures for the north Atlantic including new samples from	
			The SC furthermore recommends •Development of common sampling protocols for all areas in the North Atlantic in preparation for epidemic disease outbreaks, including establishment of blood serum stores for seals sampled. •Compilation of a database of samples stored in the NAMMCO countries. (SC/18, 2011)	
	NAMMCO/22 02-2014	See 2.4.2 for update from NAMMCO 22.	The SC recommended that all of the available grey seal data from the Faroes is presented to the CSWG for review. The SC recommends that the CSWG develops specific plans for monitoring grey seals in the Faroes, e.g., obtaining a relative series of abundance (if a full abundance estimate is not possible at this time).	
			The CSWG met in March 2016, and the SC/24 endorsed the conclusions and recommendations (SC/24, 2017)	
			SC/25 noted that this request has been completed for Norway and is ongoing for Iceland (SC/25, 2018)	
			SC/26 noted that this work remains ongoing and will be advanced through the CSWG planned for April 2020	
			SC/27 noted that a short meeting to review the status of stocks was held in 2021, and addressed stocks in Greenland and Norway. A full assessment would be carried out by the CSWG at their next meeting, planned for 2022.	
			SC/28 noted that the request would be answered by the next CSWG, which was postponed from 2022 to 2023 to allow more data to become availble. (SC/28, 2022)	
			SC/29 noted that a Coastal Seals Working Group (CSWG) meeting is planned for 8-11 May 2023 to produce an assessment for both grey and harbour seals in the NAMMCO countries. The SC agreed on the following Terms of Reference for the CSWG meeting: 1) To provide a new assessment for grey and harbour seals throughout the North Atlantic. 2) To provide guidelines for responsible removals of small coastal seal stocks. (SC/29, 2023)	
2.6.0	**ATLANTIC WALRUS:**			
2.6.3rev	NAMMCO/15 03-2006	Provide advice on the effects of human disturbance, including fishing and shipping activities, in particular scallop fishing, on the distribution, behaviour and conservation status of walrus in West Greenland.	With the current actual state of knowledge, the SC is unable to answer this question. The walrus disturbance study on Svalbard will help only in answering the problem of disturbance by tourists. The SC referred, however, to the answer to request 3.4.9. (SC/16, 2009).	**Ongoing**
			Owing to a lack of explicit studies, the SC is not in a strong position to provide advice on the effects of human disturbance on walrus. (SC/17, 2010)	
			With regard to R-2.6.3, the SC noted that there is no new information available to consider this request (SC/20, 2013).	
	NAMMCO 22 02-2014	To continue planning the disturbance workshop for beluga and narwhal is supported, and it is also recommended to include walrus (see also R-3.4.9).	Concerns were raised at both the [Disturbance] Symposium and the SC meeting about a Canadian mining project currently under development in the Canadian Arctic, the Mary River Project operated by Baffinland Iron Mines Corp… It will have severe consequences for the large numbers of marine mammals [including] walruses, with unpredictable consequences for the populations themselves but also for the accessibility to hunting and/or its sustainability. Other industrial activities that were addressed at the symposium as being particularly important as disturbance factors for marine mammals were seismic exploration in Canada, and West and East Greenland. The SC draws the attention of the NAMMCO Council to the potentially severe consequences of these projects. The SC noted that these industrial activities will also likely have impacts on the hunting of these species, and could affect the advice that is given by this SC. (SC/22, 2015)	
			Answered as far as is possible with the information that is currently available. However, this request remains ongoing, and should be considered again when additional specific information is available. (SC/24, 2017)	
			SC/25 highlighted that since this request was made in 2006, scallop fisheries may be less of an issue now, while fishing and shipping activities are still relevant, and tourism, hydrocarbon exploration and mineral extraction may be new stressors for walruses. It therefore proposed that the MC may wish to consider rephrasing the request to reflect these changes (SC/25, 2018).	
			This request was partly answered by the walrus working group (WWG) in 2018. However, the SC reiterated its concern about mining in the Wolstenholme Fjord and advances in the Mary River project (see sections 7.3.1 and 8.7.1 of the SC/26, 2019 report) (SC/26, 2019)	
	NAMMCO 27 (2019)	*Request Rephrased:* Provide advice of the effects of human disturbance, including fishing and shipping activities, tourism,	SC/27 endorsed a recommendation that a workshop on disturbance from the Mary River mine be organised and that this should include impacts on walrus. However, it suggested that the JWG provide more specific terms of reference for this workshop at its next meeting (SC/27, 2021)	
			SC/28 is planning a Disturbance Workshop to be held under the Joint WG on narwhal and beluga and that will also deal with walrus. (SC/28, 2022)	
			SC29 endorsed the recommendations provided by the NAMMCO/JCNB Disturbance Workshop convened in December 2022. The SC recommended that request R-2.6.3 be considered as answered for the following reasons. -Results from the NAMMCO-JCNB Disturbance Workshop. -Hydrocarbon exploration is not a threat anymore due to the stop of oil exploration in Greenland, and fishing is not considered and issue any longer. -In general, there is no new data available to respond to this request, apart from specific recommendations to the walrus population near the Dundas Mine in Qaanaaq, which are listed above. -Hunting is the most important issue impacting walrus populations in Greenland. -Tourism was shown to have no effect on walrus haul-out behaviour, according to a recent study in Svalbard, and is therefore not considered a factor which could be relevant. To follow up on the issues covered by R-2.6.3, the SC agreed to add the following Terms of Reference for the Walrus WG:	
2.7.0	**BEARDED SEAL**			
	NAMMCO/28a 03-2020	To convene a working group in 2022 with the aim of conducting a thorough review of the existing data and to go ahead with the assessment of stocks for which it was possible. If the data required for a full assessment of (some of) the stocks were not available, the WGs and the SC should identify, and prioritise, which specific data essential to their assessments are still needed.	SC/27 noted the request from Council that a WG on this species not be delayed beyond 2022. As a first step it agreed that an overview of information required and available to perform an assessment should be collated, together with a review of available published literarture (and especially that published since that last review in 2010. An intern at the Secretariat will begin the work on this in 2021.	**Ongoing**
			SC/28: The Joint NAMMCO/CAFF Bearded seal WS scheduled to happen in 2022 has been postponed to 2023 (due to the Russia-Ukraine war), but as SC/28 found it important to progress with a status review, a 3h online meeting will take place in November 2022 to get an overview of data and analysis for both ringed and bearded seals. (SC/28, 2022)	
			SC/29: The Bearded Seal Workshop (BSWS) will be held online on 21 to 23 March, 3 hours per day organised fully by NAMMCO due to the work limitation of the Arctic Council. The SC agreed that the WS should define the area for which an assessment could be conducted, and where the abundance data would be the most useful to progress in assessing the conservation status of a stock.	
3. WHALES				
3.2.0	**HUMPBACK WHALE:**			
3.4.0	**NARWHAL AND BELUGA:**			
3.4.11	NAMMCO/17 09-2008	To update the assessment of both narwhal and beluga, noting that new data warrant such an exercise.	The SC/16 endorses the assessment performed by the JWG.	**Standing**
			Narwhal: noted that the conclusion reached differed from those reached in 2005. It **recommends** that catches be set so that there is at least a 70% probability that management objectives (population increase) will be met for West and East Greenland narwhals, i.e. maximum total removals of 310 and 85 narwhals in West and East Greenland respectively. (SC/16, 2009)	
			Beluga: the catch of belugas in West Greenland has been reduced in response to previous advice. These reduced takes already seem to be having a positive effect on population size. The modelling for belugas rests on a more solid background than that of narwhals because of simpler stock structure, however since there is still uncertainty in the assessment, the SC strongly recommends that future catches be set according to the probability of population increase of at least 70%. Annual takes between 180 to 310 individuals over the next 5 years will leave the population an 70% to 95% probability of a continued increase until 2014. (SC/16, 2009)	
			Narwhal update: The JWG and the SC (SC/19) agreed that narwhals in Scoresby Sound (Ittoqqortormiit) and Kangerlussuaq-Sermilik (Tasiilaq) should be treated as two separate stocks. The age structure from animals collected between 2007 and 2010 in Ittoqqortormiit was applied to both areas, and the harvest was found to select older animals. It was estimated that narwhals in the Ittoqqortormiit area have increased slightly, while narwhals in the Tasiilaq/Kangerlussuaq area might be stable. The current growth rate in the absence of harvest was estimated to lie between 1.2% (95% CI:0–3.5) and 3.7% (95% CI:1.6–5.9), depending upon model and area. Proposed quotas ranged from 17-70% (Ittoqqortormiit) with probability of 95-70% increase in population and 0-18 (Tasiilaq) with probability of 95-70% increase. (SC/19, 2012)	
			Beluga update: The JWG considered, and SC agreed (SC/19), that the revised assessment models, which incorporate the age structure data but no new abundance estimate, confirmed that the current removals based on the 2009 advice are sustainable. Based on a 70% probability of population increase, it is concluded that a total annual removal of 310 beluga in West Greenland (excluding Qaanaaq) is sustainable. A new and updated advice is expected at the next meeting based on a new abundance estimates from the spring survey in 2012, and the SC noted that new abundance estimates for assessments should be available at least every 10th year. (SC/19)	
			No specific advice was given on the North Water (Qaanaaq), since the current removals remain at a low level relative to the population size. No advice was given for the harvest in Canada.	
			Results from different scenarios of the age structured population dynamic model were presented, providing annual growth rate estimates from 3.2% to 5%, in the absence of harvest. The depletion ratio for 2012 was estimated to 44% (95% CI: 16%–88%), with a yearly replacement of 510 (95% CI:170–780) individuals. (SC/19)	
			SC/25 noted that this is done regularly by the NAMMCO-JCNB joint working group and that it remains a standing request (SC/25, 2018).	
			This work is done within the context of the joint working group with the JCNB, which will meet again in 2020 (SC/26, 2019)	
			SC/27 received an updated assessment for beluga from the JWG meeting in 2020 and noted that an updated assessment for narwha	
			SC/28 is planning a Disturbance Workshop in 2022 to be held under the Joint WG on narwhal and beluga (SC/28, 2022) SC/29: This work is done within the context of the NAMMCO-JCNB Joint scientific Working Group (JWG), which met in December 2021, and the Ad hoc Working Group on Narwhals in East Greenland (NEGWG), which met in October 2021. The reports were reviewed by SC 28 in January 2022 and the SC recommendations presented to the MCC in September 2022. The next meeting of the NEGWG is scheduled for autumn 2023. (SC/29, 2023)	
3.5.0	**SEI WHALES:**			
3.8.0	**LONG-FINNED PILOT WHALES:**			
3.8.6	NAMMCO/20 09- 2011	To continue work to complete a full assessment of pilot whales in the North Atlantic and provide advice on the sustainability of catches, as soon as necessary further information becomes available, with particular emphasis on	SC/19 agreed that it was unlikely that a full assessment could be attempted in the near future. Regarding a short term advice, the SC noted that both the AWMPc procedure (which has been used for preliminary advice for baleen whales in West Greenland by NAMMCO and the IWC), as well as the PBR approach, could be used for an inverse advice calculation of the minimum abundance	

		information becomes available, with particular emphasis on the Faroese area and East and West Greenland. In the short term, the SC was requested to provide a general indication of the level of abundance of pilot whales required to sustain an annual catch equivalent to the annual average of the Faroese catch in the years since 1997.	With the average annual catch by the Faroese since 1997 being 678, and the CV of the latest abundance estimate being 0.27, the AWMPc procedure estimates that an abundance estimate around 50,000 pilot whales and a similar precision is required to sustain the catch. In comparison, the PBR approach (rmax of 3% and recovery factor of 1) calculates an abundance estimate around 80,000 whales. These calculations reflect precautionary estimates of the minimum abundance estimates required to sustain the Faroese hunt. However, the geographical range of the stock(s) that supply the Faroese hunt is unknown, and it is unresolved how the calculated estimates compare with the accepted estimate of 128,000 (95% CI: 75,700-217,000) pilot whales from the Icelandic and Faroe Islands area of T-NASS.	
			The next assessment will not occur until after the next sightings survey. (SC/21, 2014)	
			The remaining unanswered portions of **R-3.8.6** awaits new data from NASS2015. The West Greenland part was dealt with during SC/19 and the SC refers Council to that report. (SC/22, 2015)	
			SC/25 noted that this work is ongoing and will be specifically addressed under the pilot whale WG planned in 2020 (SC/25, 2018).	**Ongoing**
			SC/26 noted that life history data is being collected in the Faroes and abundance estimates have been generated. This information will inform the work of the pilot whale working group, which the SC proposed delaying until 2021 to allow for additional data to be collected (SC/26, 2019).	
			SC/27 received an update on the ongoing research efforts within the Faroe Islands to inform an assessment and noted that the request would be answered by the pilot whale working group at its scheduled meeting in 2022.	
			SC/28 agreed to reschedule the Pilot Whale Working Group Meeting for 2023 (initially planned for 2022), to allow the analyses of both the biological and the tagging data in the Faroes be duly completed. Availability of data for conducting an assessment on pilot whale will be reviewed at the Harbour Porpoise Working Group Meeting in November 2022. (SC/28, 2022)	
			SC/29 was informed that available data on long-finned pilot whales in all NAMMCO countries had been reviewed at the HPWG meeting in 2022 and that a Pilot Whale Working Group (PWWG) meeting was scheduled for 2024. The HPWG formulated recommendations for the upcoming assessment on pilot whale which were endorsed by SC/29. (SC/29, 2023)	
3.9.0	**DOLPHIN SPECIES *(Tursiops* and *Lagenoryhncus spp.):***			
3.9.6	NAMMCO/13 03-2004 RENEWED NAMMCO/27 (2019)	The SC was asked to carry out assessments of these species, but to date insufficient information has been available on stock delineation, distribution, abundance and biological parameters to initiate the work. The Committee was pleased to note that considerable progress has been made in the Faroes in describing the ecology and life history of white-sided dolphins and that information on white-beaked dolphins should be available from Iceland and Norway in about 2 years time. Abundance estimates are lacking in all areas except Icelandic coastal waters, and no information on stock delineation or pod structure is yet available. The SCANS survey planned for 2005/6 and coastal surveys planned for Norway (see 9.3) should provide information on distribution and abundance in some areas. The Committee endorsed the plan of the SC to proceed with the assessments once the above-mentioned studies have been completed,	There is still insufficient data on these species to conduct an assessment, but the SC **recommended** that abundance be estimated for white-sided and white-beaked dolphins from the 2007 T-NASS survey as soon as possible. An assessment of the species could be attempted in 2009 at the earliest. (SC/15, 2008)	**Pending**
			The Committee notes that there are still not enough data (life history and abundance) for any of the three species to complete an assessment. The Faroes have samples for diet and life history parameters from 350 white-sided dolphins, but the analysis is not completed yet. (SC/16, 2009)	
			The SC **noted** that the data on life history and abundance for any of the three species is still not sufficient for an assessment and **recommended** that the Faroese samples for diet and life history parameters from 350 white-sided dolphins be finalised and at the same time that an abundance estimate from the 2007 survey be attempted. (SC/17, 2010)	
			The SC noted that there is no new data available to answer this request. Mikkelsen informed that the data collected from the drive hunt of white sided dolphins in the Faroes will be published before the next SC meeting. (SC/20, 2013)	
			SC/21 noted that there is no new information for bottlenose dolphins from the Faroes and the analysis from previous studies of white sided dolphins have not been completed. (SC/21, 2014)	
			Some sampling has been occurring in the Faroes previously, however no new samples have been collected recently because there have been very few catches in recent years. The results from the previous sample collections have yet to be published. (SC/22, 2015)	
		The MC notes the report of the SC, awaits the publication from the previous sampling. (NAMMCO/24, 2016)	SC/25 noted that there are abundance estimates and catch data available however it does not consider performing assessments for dolphin species a priority since assessments of other species are deemed more urgent. The SC recommended that Council consider whether this request remains valid (SC/25, 2018).	
		The MCC concluded that performing assessments of dolphin speces remained a valid request with the same level of priority as assessments of other species for which there are removals (white-sided dolphins are hunted in the Faroes and there are also removals of white-beaked dolphins in Greenland)	A series of abundance estimates are now available for these species and there will soon be data available on by-catch. Life history data is also available (although not yet published). The SC recommended that member countries collate all the data available for these species for consideration at SC/27, after which plans to answer R-3.9.6 and carry out an assessment will be discussed (SC/26, 2019)	
			SC/27 received an update on the information available in each member country to perform an assessment and answer this request. Noting that some data was still lacking, a working group meeting was tentatively proposed for 2023 and a review of the available information will be undertaken again SC28.	
			SC/28 noted that a detailed review of the available information on *Lagenorhynchus* sp. in all member countries should be compiled with the help of the Secretariat and presented to SC29. (SC/28, 2022)	
			SC/29 was informed that available data on Lagenorhynchus dolphins in all NAMMCO countries had been reviewed at the HPWG meeting in 2022 and that a Dolphin Working Group meeting was scheduled for 2023. HPWG formulated recommendations before future assessments of Lagenorhynchus dolphins in the NAMMCO countries which were endorsed. (SC/29, 2023)	
3.10.0	**HARBOUR PORPOISES**:			
3.10.1	NAMMCO/07 05-1997 RENEWED NAMMCO/27 (2019)	The Council noted that the harbour porpoise is common to all NAMMCO member countries, and that the extent of current research activities and expertise in member countries and elsewhere across the North Atlantic would provide an excellent basis for undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the species throughout its range. The Council therefore requested the SC to perform such an assessment, which might include distribution and abundance, stock identity, biological parameters, ecological interaction, pollutants, removals and sustainability of removals.	SC/06 decided that the matter could best be dealt with by convening an international workshop / symposium on harbour porpoises, which would involve experts working on this species throughout its North Atlantic range. The agenda would include the following themes: distribution, abundance and stock identity; biological parameters; ecological interactions; pollutants; removals and sustainability of removals. (SC/6, 1998)	**Ongoing**
			SC/08 utilised the report of the Symposium to develop its own assessment advice to the Council. Recent abundance estimates are available for only a few places in the North Atlantic. Directed harvesting occurs in some areas, but most removals are through by-catch. In some areas, present removals are not sustainable. The SC developed research recommendations to address some of the information needs for management of this species. (SC/8, 2000)	
			The SC considered that formal assessments for this species were warranted for Greenland, Iceland and Norway, but that there was insufficient information on abundance in all areas and removals in Iceland and Norway to conduct assessment at this time. (SC/14, 2006)	
			Estimates of abundance and removals are still needed in all areas. The T-NASS survey will provide an estimate for the coastal area around Iceland, and maybe Greenland but will not do so for other areas. (SC/15, 2008)	
			Information was still lacking on abundance in all areas and removals in Faroes, Iceland and Norway in order to conduct an assessment. Such an assessment can be performed when the ongoing analyses cited above are completed, maybe end of 2010 or early 2011, providing that data on total removals are also available. (SC/16, 2009)	
			The SC recommended that an assessment meeting for harbour porpoises in all areas be held during the winter 2011/12. The SC recommended that the Faroese authorities make sure that obligatory reporting of takes of harbour porpoises is effective. Total removal estimates should be obtained for all areas before the planned WG meeting. It also recommended that abundance estimates from the 2007 survey in Iceland and the 2010 survey in the Faroe Islands become available before the meeting. (SC/18, 2011)	
		The Management Committee recommends that total removal estimates are made for all areas, and that abundance estimates from the 2007 survey in Iceland and the 2010 survey in the Faroe Islands are available before a WG meeting. (NAMMCO 19).	Update: A total annual by-catch estimate of 6,900 harbour porpoises in Norway was reported. This estimate is substantial, and it raises concerns that the by-catch of harbour porpoises in Norway may not be sustainable. Therefore the SC recommended initiating an assessment of harbour porpoises in Norway. This process should include *i)* reviewing the by-catch estimates *ii)* examining the relevant abundance estimates *iii)* assessing the need for coastal surveys of harbour porpoises in Norway *iv)* investigating the use of satellite tracking for stock delineation, and *v)* evaluating the use of acoustic deterrents (pingers) in the gillnet fishery in order to reduce the by-catch.	
			Greenland reported that they had sufficient data for an assessment of harbour porpoises in West Greenland. A catch history is available, a recent abundance estimate, as well as two samples of the age structure (from 1995 and 2010). The SC also noted the existence of abundance estimates from both Iceland and the Faroe Islands, as well as some estimates of by-catch in Iceland. (SC/19, 2012)	
			The NAMMCO WG on Harbour Porpoises met in Copenhagen 4-6 November 2013. This was the first meeting and terms of reference was to provide a full assessment for West Greenland, and to initiate the process for Norway, including a review of the method used for obtaining total by-catch estimates. *Greenland* Given the large degree of uncertainty in the abundance estimate and the catch history, and the effect of this on the results of the assessment models, the WG was unable to provide management advice for West Greenland at this time. Nevertheless, the WG noted that the average annual catches since 1993 in West Greenland were 2126 harbour porpoises and that a large abundance is needed to sustain such catches. Given the recent discovery of high uncertainty in catches, the WG strongly recommended that Greenland provides a complete catch history accounting for all types of underreporting of catches before any future attempts are made to conduct an assessment of harbour porpoises in West Greenland. The WG noted that T-NASS 2015 may provide a new abundance estimate for West Greenland and recommended that a new assessment not be considered until the outcome of this survey is known.	
			Taking into consideration the work of the HP WG, the SC/21 recommends the following: ***Greenland*** 1.Given the recent discovery of large uncertainty in catches, the SC strongly recommends that Greenland provides a complete catch history including all types of underreporting of catches before any future attempts are made to conduct an assessment of harbour porpoises in West Greenland. 2.The SC noted that T-NASS 2015 may provide a new abundance estimate for West Greenland and recommended that a new assessment not be considered until the outcome of this survey is known ***Norway*** 1.That Norway expand the information about by-catch giving the next priority to the lumpfish fishery by-catch. 2.That surveys to estimate abundance in Norwegian coastal and fjord waters are carried out. These surveys should focus in the areas of highest by-catch (Vestfjorden). (SC/20, 2013) 3.That both tracking and genetics studies be carried out to clarify stock delineation. Reliance on genetics data alone is not enough because movements are needed to inform on mixing and dispersion of the animals on a management time scale.	
		The MC **endorses** the recommendations of the SC (NAMMCO 22).	4.That samples be collected from by-catches in Norway, to obtain data on sex ratio, reproductive status, age structure, diet, contaminants, etc. Again, the efforts should focus on the Vestfjord area, where most of the by-catches occur.	
			A future harbour porpoise WG will be scheduled after a report from the Bycatch WG, new data from TNASS2015, and progress on research requests from the 2013 HPWG. (SC/21, 2014)	
			The SC/23 discussed a possible future HPWG. Norway and Iceland both stated that they will likely not have the information ready for a meeting until 2018 and Greenland is also fine with waiting until 2018 for the next HPWG. The SC also supported the idea that a future meeting should include participants from ASCOBANS and other EU scientists. (SC/23, 2016)	
			SC/25 noted that this work is ongoing and will be addressed during both the upcoming WS and WG (SC/25, 2018).	
			The SC/26 is progressing and has completed the assessment for West Greenland. It has also provided recommendations for the other areas regarding the data needed to conduct such assessments and given advice on how to obtain reliable information. Harbour porpoise assessments for Norway and Iceland are now tentatively scheduled for 2022, with final confirmation pending the availability of the necessary data (SC/26, 2019). The SC is also progressing in assessing removals. The BYCWG will meet in spring 2020 with a particular focus on reviewing new/revised by-catch estimates of harbour porpoise from Iceland and Norway. The SC has also recommended better reporting of harbour porpoise catch be implemented in Greenland, with effort dedicated to eliminating underreporting (SC/26, 2019).	
			SC/27 noted that the BYCWG had progressed on its delivery of by-catch estimates for Iceland and Norway. It also noted that abundance estimates for Iceland (2007 survey) and the Faroe Islands (2010 survey) were now complete. Assessments for Norway and Iceland are therefore tentatively planned for 2022, pending final confirmation of the availability of the necessary data.	
			SC/28 is planning a Harbour Porpoise Working Group (HPWG) meeting in November 2022 to proceed with the assessment for Norway. (SC/28, 2022)	
			SC/29 received results from the HPWG, which concluded that Norwegian by-catch of harbour porpoise was unsustainable and recommended Norway to reduce by-catch of harbour porpoises and improve the available data for a new assessment. The SC also agreed that catch levels of harbour porpoise in Greenland were deemed unsustainable and noted that previous management advice had not been implemented; the SC recommended it be implemented. The SC also strongly encouraged Iceland to conduct a new survey on harbour porpoise as soon as possible. (SC/29, 2023)	